

## **Officers Gather To Plan 2005 Enforcement Campaigns Spring "Click It or Ticket" initiative to begin May 23 with special emphasis**

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What: Governor's Highway Safety Program Law Enforcement Summits

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Where: Tuesday - Hilton University Place Hotel, Charlotte

Thursday - Sheraton Hotel, Atlantic Beach

RALEIGH - Hundreds of law enforcement executives and line officers will gather this week to prepare for upcoming enforcement campaigns designed to increase safety belt use and decrease the incidence of impaired driving in North Carolina.

The annual Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Law Enforcement Summits will be held Tuesday in Charlotte and Thursday in Atlantic Beach. GHSP Director Darrell Jernigan will update participants regarding plans for the 2005 enforcement campaigns, including a special emphasis on increasing safety belt use by pickup truck drivers and passengers and a new initiative called "No Need 2 Speed."

The keynote speaker will be Mark Solomon, senior associate of Preusser Research Group, Inc. Solomon is heavily involved in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's eight-state Southeast demonstration project to increase safety belt use among pickup truck drivers and passengers. He will outline the regional initiative as well as special efforts planned for North Carolina.

Last year, officers statewide issued more than 350,000 citations during "Click It or Ticket" and "Booze It & Lose It" high-visibility enforcement and education campaigns. That total includes 11,160 driving while impaired (DWI) arrests, more than half of which were issued during the fall "Booze It & Lose It" campaign, and 55,813 citations to drivers and passengers who failed to use required safety belts or child passenger restraints.

The spring "Click It or Ticket" campaign will begin May 23 and continue through June 12. Law enforcement agencies statewide will conduct checkpoints and saturation patrols to increase awareness of and compliance with North Carolina occupant protection laws.

Summit speakers will cover a range of traffic safety topics, including increasing North Carolina's safety belt use rate; impaired driving enforcement and pending DWI legislation; using available resources to improve judicial outcomes; increasing transportation safety among Latino motorists, and a new project to increase safety belt use among high school students.

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For information regarding this or other North Carolina highway safety issues, call GHSP Assistant Director Don Nail at

919-733-3083 (cell: 919-291-6428), or visit our web site at: [www.ncdot.org/secretary/ghsp](http://www.ncdot.org/secretary/ghsp)